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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
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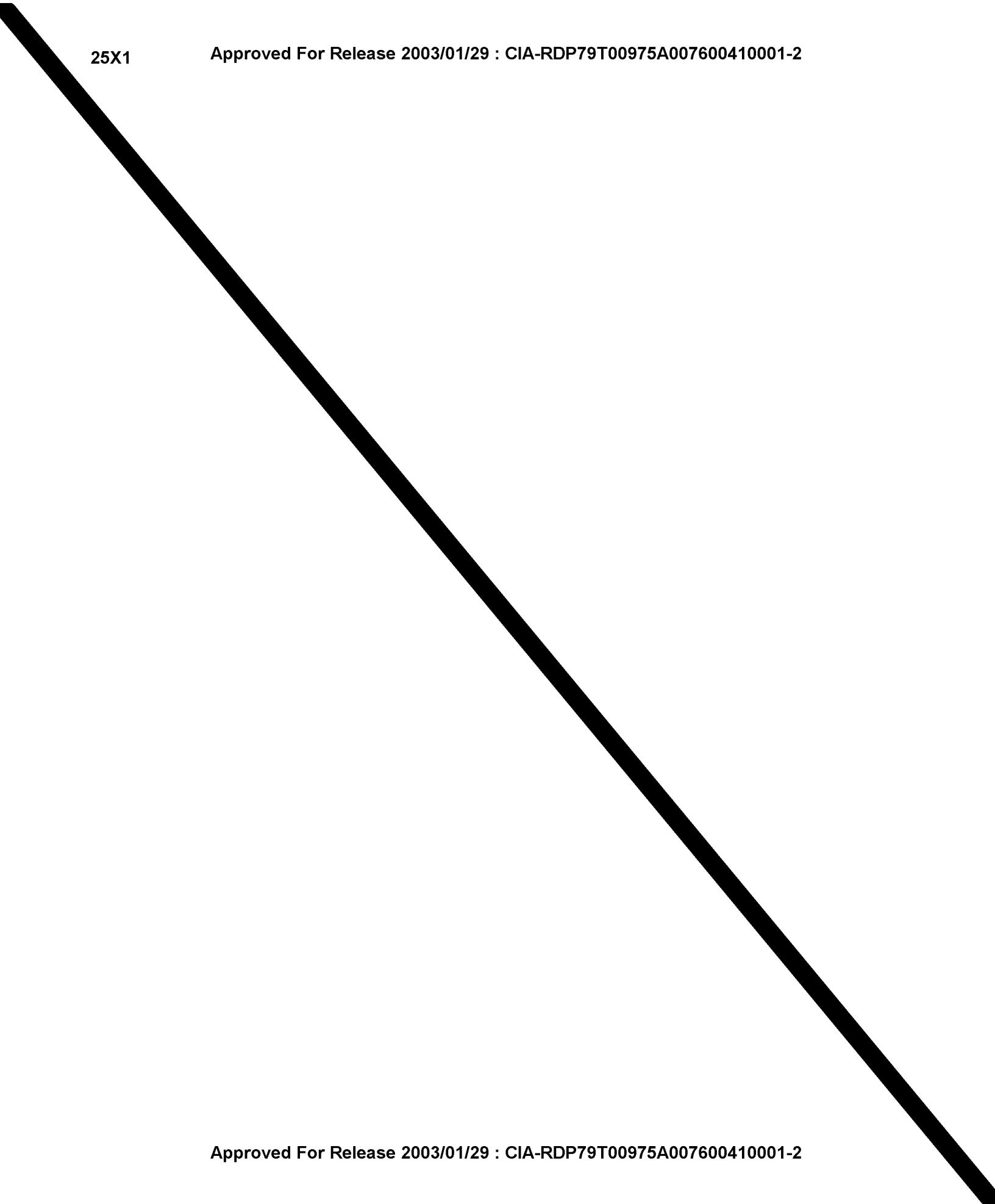
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Japan - Communist Bloc: The Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry reportedly has developed proposals for a sweeping liberalization of Japan's trade with Communist countries.

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the ministry claims that its proposals, if adopted soon, could lead to a doubling of Japan's 1964 exports to Communist areas, currently projected at \$320 million.

Under these proposals, the Japanese Government would: apply COCOM list restrictions only to weapons, equipment, and materials directly usable in war; free Communist business travelers from special entry controls; encourage the establishment of Japanese trade offices in Communist countries; and extend the same deferred payment terms to Communist buyers as are now offered to non-Communist countries.

The US Embassy comments that the proposal regarding the COCOM list is "utterly unrealistic" and that the other proposals would be drastically modified before the government would adopt them. At present, according to the report, they are being circulated quietly among top officials of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to obtain political backing before they are presented to the cabinet.

Strong elements of the LDP favor expansion of trade with Communist China, which would be a particular beneficiary of a more liberal policy. Prime Minister Ikeda, who maintains a "forward-looking" stance toward closer relations with mainland China, might therefore find it expedient to go along to some extent with a liberalization program.

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Argentina: The revival this month of a nation-wide agitation campaign by the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) may set off a prolonged period of labor unrest.

This campaign, which the CGT postponed in March, calls for brief and sporadic "occupation" of various production centers by workers between 18 May and 19 June. A nationwide "occupation" lasting 24 hours is planned to take place between 15 and 18 June.

The CGT argues that the government has not made "satisfactory" progress toward resolving such problems as the high cost of living, unemployment, and the need for minimum wage legislation.

The decision to renew the campaign presumably was timed to bring pressure on Congress, which opened its regular session on 1 May. President Illia, who has already ordered some steps to meet labor's complaints, recommended a minimum wage measure in his state-of-the-nation message.

US Ambassador McClintock comments that the CGT is again on a collision course with the government. He adds that many labor officials--who see danger in so provocative an approach--have little enthusiasm for the "occupation" plan. The CGT might ease its pressure if the Congress satisfies some of its more urgent demands.

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NOTE

Burma: Ne Win has deferred a showdown with the Buddhist opposition in the face of an all-out resistance campaign by Buddhist monks. The regime still warns that drastic action will be taken against religious groups engaged in political activities, but it has announced that they need not comply with last month's order to register with the government if their members are clear in their own minds that they are involved solely in religious affairs. Despite this concession, the monks will continue to oppose the regime, which they regard as basically hostile to their religious privileges.

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